

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 10663 01 OF 02 091850Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----009396 091852Z /47

O 091840Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9272
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 10663

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, ETEL, GW
SUBJECT: RFE/RL

REF: (A) BONN 9678, (B) BONN 7217, (C) STATE 74353

SUMMARY: STATE SECRETARY VAN WELL OFFICIALLY INFORMED ME TODAY THAT THE FRG HAS GIVEN ITS APPROVAL TO THE FULL HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION REQUEST AS WELL AS TO THE NEW LICENSE REFLECTING THE AMALGAMATION OF RFE/RL. VAN WELL ALSO INFORMED ME THAT THE FRG WILL ALLOCATE THE LONGWAVE FREQUENCY 209 TO DEUTSCHLAND FUNK AND THAT THE FRG STANDS READY TO NEGOTIATE WITH US ABOUT THE USE OF THE MUNICH/ ERCHING TRANSMITTER BY DEUTSCHLAND FUNK. END SUMMARY

1. AT THE REQUEST OF STATE SECRETARY VAN WELL, I MET WITH HIM ON JUNE 9 FOR A BRIEF DISCUSSION. VAN WELL SAID HE WANTED TO CONVEY TO ME OFFICIALLY WHAT HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE KNOWN TO US INFORMALLY (REFTEL A),, NAMELY, THAT THE FRG WILL APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF LICENSES FROM RFE AND RL TO THE NEW ENTITY RFE/RL INCORPORATED AND THAT THE FRG ALSO GAVE ITS APPROVAL TO THE US REQUEST TO MODERNIZE THE HOLZKIRCHEN FACILITIES.

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2. VAN WELL NOTED THAT THE POSTAL MINISTRY WILL FORMALIZE THE LICENSING PROCEDURE IN A LETTER TO RFE/RL WHICH WOULD BE SENT AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF OUR DISCUSSION TODAY. THAT LETTER WILL REQUEST THAT THE DIRECTOR OF RFE/RL IN MUNICH MAKE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, THE GREAT PART OF WHICH IS IDENTICAL IN CONTENT TO THAT MADE IN

1955. SEVERAL POINTS, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN ADDED TO BRING THE AGREEMENT IN LINE WITH FRG FEDERAL BROADCASTING LAW DEVELOPED SINCE THAT TIME. SPECIFICALLY, RFE/RL MUST AGREE THAT ALL BROADCASTS EMANATING FROM FRG SOIL MUST BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. ALL REPORTING MUST BE TRUTHFUL, COMPLETE AND OBJECTIVE AND IT IS RFE/RL'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THE ACCURACY OF ITS REPORTS. NEWS AND EDITORIALS MUST BE CLEARLY SEPARATED AND EDITORIALS MUST BE LABELED AS SUCH.

3. ON THE SUBJECT OF HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION, VAN WELL SAID THE FRG WILL APPROVE AN INCREASE IN CAPACITY FOR THE HOLZKIRCHEN FACILITY FROM 10 TO 250 KHZ. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS DECISION WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN A ROUTINE MANNER BY THE POSTAL MINISTRY.

4. VAN WELL SAID HE ALSO WISHED TO INFORM ME OF THE FRG'S DECISION TO ALLOCATE THE LONGWAVE FREQUENCY 209 TO DEUTSCHLAND FUNK (DLF). HE SAID THIS DECISION WAS IN LINE WITH THE GERMAN POSITION AS CONVEYED TO US AT THE MARCH 21 MEETING IN WASHINGTON AND THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE NO NEED FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATION ON THIS POINT. CONTINUING, VAN WELL NOTED THE FRG WAS READY TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS "TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION US WISHES" ON THE USE

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EXDIS

OF THE MUNICH/ERCHING LW TRANSMITTER BY DEUTSCHLAND FUNK.

5. I THANKED VAN WELL FOR HIS PRESENTATION, ADDING THAT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IN WASHINGTON FOLLOWED DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING REF/RL WITH INTEREST. THE NEWS ABOUT THE LICENSE AND THE HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION WOULD BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED THERE. I TOOK NOTE OF THE DECISION REGARDING THE 209 FREQUENCY AND ASSURED VAN WELL THAT I WOULD REPORT THIS, AS WELL AS HIS OFFER OF NEGOTIATIONS ON MUNICH/ERCHING, TO WASHINGTON.

6. COMMENT: GIVEN THE LACK OF FIRM CONCLUSIONS OF THE MARCH 21 WASHINGTON MEETINGS, AS REPORTED REFTEL C, WE ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT THE "FAIT ACCOMPLI" TENOR OF VAN WELL'S REMARKS CONCERNING FREQUENCY 209. THE GERMANS APPEAR TO HAVE ASSUMED THAT ONCE THEY GAVE THE MODERNIZATION PERMISSION, 209 WAS AUTOMATICALLY THEIRS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT UNDER THE 1975 LF/MF CONVENTION, THE FRG TECHNICALLY HAD 209, AND REALIZE THAT GIVING UP 209 WAS CLEARLY THE QUID PRO QUO FOR RECEIVING FRG PERMISSION TO UPGRADE HOLZKIRCHEN. YET THE FRG MAY HAVE MISSED A STEP IN THIS "SWAP" AND WE WONDER IF IT IS NECESSARY TO NOTIFY THE FRG FORMALLY OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW DLF FULL AND FREE USE OF THE FREQUENCY. REQUEST WASHINGTON COMMENTS.
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